



September 15, 2006

Ms. Renee Orr  
5-Year Program Manager  
Minerals Management Service  
(MS-4010), Room 3120  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

**RE: In Support of Expanded Offshore Oil & Gas Development**

Dear Ms. Orr

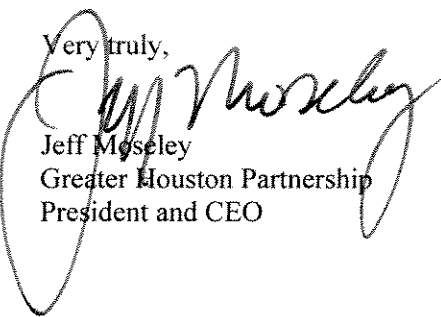
The Greater Houston Partnership has immense interest in the issue of expansion of our nation's offshore oil and natural gas resources during the 2007 – 2012 time period. On October 4, 2006, this matter shall be submitted to the Partnership's Board of Directors for approval through resolution.

Research shows that more than 80 percent of our nation's offshore natural resources are off-limits to development. With more than 85 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas estimated to be available, the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) stands ready to provide a major component of the domestic resources for this country. This data supports a 5 Year Plan which is as broad as possible and organized in a manner that provides reliable development schedules for companies to access these resources as safely and effectively as possible.

The Greater Houston Partnership recognizes that this is a critical time for our nation. It is time to provide a sensible energy policy that safely, effectively and fairly utilizes U.S. natural resources. The Administration and Congress has been urged to quickly approve measures to provide a mechanism for coastal states to properly share in the revenues derived from offshore oil and gas production. Experts believe that this production revenue – similar to that currently shared with inland states – would provide a tremendous benefit to state and local communities; helping to build roads, schools, hospitals and to address other vital local needs.

One the Greater Houston Partnership's primary goals is to support policy that foster economic development. The Partnership further acknowledges that a region's quality of life has an important impact on its economic health. The general conclusion contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement supports our policies and, as such, we urge MMS to properly consider all environmental impacts associated with offshore production.

Very truly,



Jeff Moseley  
Greater Houston Partnership  
President and CEO